

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Final Official Action provided.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-3.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 4, 9, 10, and 12 will have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has objected to claims 10 and 12 for containing informalities. In particular, the Examiner has objected to claims 10 and 12, which were amended in the Response filed September 8, 2004 as including a designation "Original" in the Claims Listing of the Response. Since claims 10 and 12 were amended in the Response filed September 8, 2004, claims 10 and 12 have been designated "Previously Presented" in the present Response. Accordingly, in view of the above noted remarks, it is believed that the objection to claims 10 and 12 have been overcome, and Applicants respectfully request that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6, 9, 10, 12, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over PARKS et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,445).

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims on this ground, nevertheless, Applicants have amended independent claims 4, 9, 10, and 12 to clearly obviate the above noted ground of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicants note that PARKS et al. fails to show each and every element recited in the amended claims. In particular, claim 4, as amended, sets forth a wiring system including, inter alia, "at least one main harness having at least one first group of wires aligned in a substantially parallel direction, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with relay terminals at the other end thereof, the end terminals being inserted in an end connector", "at least one sub harness having at least one second group of wires, the group of wires having at least one wire crossover formed therein, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with relay terminals at the other end thereof", "wherein the coupling structure comprises a main harness side relay connector that receives said relay terminals of said at least one main harness and a sub harness side relay connector that receives said relay terminals of said at least one sub harness which are mutually engageable with each other", and "whereby the end and relay terminals of the main harness can be mounted in the end and relay connectors of the main harness during subassembly, and whereby each said main harness can be sub-assembled independently of any other said main harness; and whereby

each said sub harness cannot be sub-assembled independently of any other said sub harness”.

Claim 9, as amended, sets forth a wiring system, inter alia, “at least one main harness having at least one first group of wires aligned in a substantially parallel direction, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with relay terminals at the other end thereof, the end terminals being inserted in an end connector”, “at least one sub harness having at least one second group of wires, the group of wires having at least one joint portion, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with relay terminals at the other end thereof”, “wherein the coupling structure comprises a main harness side relay connector that receives said relay terminals of said at least one main harness and a sub harness side relay connector that receives said relay terminals of said at least one sub harness which are mutually engageable with each other”, and “whereby the end and relay terminals of the main harness can be mounted in the end and relay connectors of the main harness during subassembly, and whereby each said main harness can be sub-assembled independently of any other said main harness; and whereby each said sub harness cannot be sub-assembled independently of any other said sub harness.” Claim 10, as amended, sets forth a wiring system including, inter alia, “at least first and second main harnesses each having at least one first group of wires aligned in a substantially parallel direction, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with relay terminals at the other end thereof”, “at least first and second sub harnesses each having at least one second group of wires, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with

relay terminals at the other end thereof”, and “wherein said at least first and second coupling structures each comprise main harness side relay connectors that receive said relay terminals of said at least first and second main harnesses and sub harness side relay connectors that receive said relay terminals of said at least first and second sub harnesses; whereby the end and relay terminals of the main harnesses can be mounted in the end and relay connectors of the main harnesses during subassembly, and whereby the first and second main harness can be sub-assembled independently of each other; and whereby the first and second sub harnesses cannot be sub-assembled independently of each other”. Claim 12, as amended, sets forth a composite wire harness including, inter alia, “a main harness including only a plurality of first wires, all of said first wires aligned substantially parallel with one another, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with relay terminals at the other end thereof, the end terminals being inserted in an end connector”, “a sub harness including a plurality of second wires, at least one of said second wires being a crossover wire, and with end terminals at one end thereof and with relay terminals at the other end thereof”, “wherein the connecting device comprises a main harness side relay connector that receives said relay terminals of said at least one main harness and a sub harness side relay connector that receives said relay terminals of said at least one sub harness which are mutually engageable with each other”, and “whereby the end and relay terminals of the main harness can be mounted in the end and relay connectors of the main harness during subassembly”.

Thus, independent claims 4, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended to substantially include the subject matter of the last two paragraphs of claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner in the Interview of August 10, 1004.

The PARKS et al. patent discloses a method and apparatus for simultaneous operation of two disk drives including a set of parallel wires 150i between a connector 100 and a connector 102, and a set of wires 150i in which some wires are twisted between the connector 102 and a connector 104. However, the PARKS et al. patent fails to show a wiring system or a composite wiring harness including the features as set forth in amended claims 4, 9, 10, and 12. Since the reference fails to show each and every element of the claimed device, the rejection of claims 4, 9, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over PARKS et al. is improper and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 6-8, 13-15, and 17, which are at least patentable due to their dependency from claims 4 and 12 for the reasons noted above, recite additional features of the invention and are also separately patentable over the prior art of record based on the additionally recited features.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the proposed amendment is proper for entry since it merely amends independent claims 4, 9, 10, and 12 to recite features already recited in independent claim 1 and the amendments were suggested by the Examiner and discussed during the interview of August 10, 2004, and it is also submitted that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17.

Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at
the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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